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## **EASTERN ARMENIA WITHIN THE ADMINISTRATIVE SYSTEM OF THE SEFEVID IRAN ACCORDING TO THE PERSIAN SOURCES**

At the end of the Perso-Turkish wars and following the peace of 1639, some part of Armenian provinces were annexed by Persia forming Khanates on this territory – autonomous administrative units. Of those Khanates, the Khanate of Yerevan was one of the most advanced political and strategic unit compared with other khanates. It was responsible for the defense of the Iranian western frontier against the Ottoman attacks.

The Yerevan (Chokhursaad) and the Kharabakh princedoms by virtue of their geographic position in the administrative system of the Sefavid Iran were located in the center of the Sefavid strategic and political interests. Despite being part of the Persian state and the usage of the Persian name Chokhursaad at the Persian court and in the official circles, the Armenian territories retained their name as Armenistan.

A notable historiographer of the Safavid period Iskandar bek Torkaman Monshi many times mentioned the Armenian territories in his work and the names of those territories, including “Lesser Armenia”. The first mention of Lesser Armenia is encountered in the first volume of the work. At the time of Sefavid Muhammed (1577 – 1587), writing about the war, the author notes the events of handing over the Chokhursaad to the Ottomans: “....*The successful region of Chokhursaad which is a big part of Lesser Armenia came over into the hands of the enemy*<sup>1</sup>. Iskandar Monshi had a precise idea about Armenia and mentioned it at the time, and later, at the time of the Ottomans’ seisure of the Kars Province: “*After those cases the fortress of Kars came over to the management by the subjects of our Kingdom. The Vilaet of Kars is in the territory of Lesser Armenia*<sup>2</sup> located

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<sup>2</sup> Iskandar Monshi uses the name of “Lesser Armenia for the spot of land located on the territory of Greater Armenia probably following the logic of the Arab geographic divisions.

between Yerevan and Erzurum”<sup>3</sup>: Iskandar Moshi also gives important information about the Armenian population. In the second volume of the book, in the following sub-chapter of the twenty-third book on the rule of Shah Abbas I: “In remembrance of those events, that took place after the seizure of Lori, Tiflis and Tumanosi (Dmanis) fortresses and Ganja fortress and Karabag mulk”, the author, on the occasion of the seizure of Tiflis mentions the Christian Armenians: “...Those urban residents were mostly Christian Armenians, Georgians and small numbers of Muslims, while at different places of the city one could notice Christial places of worship and churches”<sup>4</sup>. After the war against the notable Sultan of the Ottoman state, Suleyman (1520 – 1566) troop commanders Esmail Mirza and Abdala Khan after the expedition against the Ottoman army proceeded to Karabakh via the road to Yerevan. This event is described by the author as follows: “...in this battle about twenty thousand Ottomans ceded to the assault of our mighty army, which subsequently took the return road, turning from the Arzanjan road and headed to Karabag”<sup>5</sup>.

In the work by Monshi we find many materials relating to Yerevan, the fortress of Yerevan, Chokhursaad and Kharabakh, thus explaining the great significance of those two principedoms in the system of the Sefavid administrative system.

In the chapter “Karabakh” of another source “The country that was divided into several regions and villages, is the place of residence for the most respected persons who had under their order large numbers of warriors. The historians reminded that this country was located between Shirvan and Azarbaijan and was one of the countries subordinated to Barda”<sup>6</sup>:

“In the fragment of the book “Mokhtasarmofid related to Chokhorsaad we read: “It is clear to all that Darolmolke Chokhorsaad is the same Yerevan, located on the bank of the River Zangu. However, in certain geographic divisions there is an idea that this vilayet is a region subordinated to Barda, but some people regarded Barda as part of Aran, In actual fact, it is true that Barda is located within Aran, while Chokhursaad is a separate spot, embracing five regions, three cities and a vilayet and six fortresses”<sup>7</sup>. Of special importance is a communication about Yerevan by the author of “Mokhtasarmofid” that “A vilayet subordinating

<sup>3</sup> اسکندر بیگ ترکمان، عالم آرای عباسی، ibidem, p. 740.

<sup>4</sup> اسکندر بیگ ترکمان، عالم آرای عباسی، ibidem, p. 718.

<sup>5</sup> اسکندر بیگ ترکمان، عالم آرای عباسی، ibidem, p. 73.

<sup>6</sup> ایرج افشار با همکاری محمد رضا ابوالی مهریزی، مختصر مفید (جغرافیای ایران زمین در عصر صفوی)، تهران، 1390، ibidem, p. 168.

<sup>7</sup> مختصر مفید، ibidem, p. 180.

many regions, it is surrounded by unimaginably beautiful and heavenly gardens. *The subject dwellers are mostly Christian*”<sup>8</sup>.

We also encounter memoirs associated with the Armenians and the Armenian realities in an important source related to the administrative history Dastur al-mulukum. In the second chapter of the book the author refers to the names of the administrative divisions and places noting “the fifth Chokhursaad, the sixth – Kharabag”<sup>9</sup>. In the eighth sub-chapter of the fourth chapter of the book there is a mention of the geographic location in connection with different payments for the needs of the government: “... From the Fortress of Yerevan – nine tumans”<sup>10</sup>. Actually, Dastur al-mulukum, too, as a source related to the activities of the Sefavid administration, made a mention of the two Armenian locations only with regard to the administrative business only. According to Dastur al-mulukum, the royal palace of Persia not only made use of the name of Armenia, but Armenia probably had its separate mustofin. Thus, when enumerating and presenting the mustofins, it was said: “the fifth mustofin of the outskirts or mustofin of the Armenian outskirts”<sup>11</sup>.

In different chapters of Tazkirat al-muluk one can also encounter expressions related to the Armenians. In the third chapter, second sub-chapter (gabeteum) there is an explanation of the work by a jabadarbashi (store manager of munitions). Here is what is said about Yerevan: “...In this <sup>13</sup> Yerevan Jabakhanyum and other regions and vilayets, in which there are royal storehouses for which jabadarbashi appoints taghvidar (responsible manager) who presides over the Hakims of the vilayet...” In the first part of the book’s conclusion there is a note on the amount of money paid to Amir Shekar Bashi: “The annual payment of Jugha’s Armenians is fifty tumans...”<sup>12</sup>.

In the second part of Tazkirat al-muluk conclusion, in the chapter on the revenue of population centers and their dependent regions there was a separate sub-chapter on their revenues mentioning “Chokhursaag and the subordinate regions and their outstanding amount of twenty-five thousand nine thousand and ten tumans as well as six thousand three hundred and twenty six dinars”<sup>13</sup> with regard to a separate sub-chapter on the regions’ revenues է հասկացվել՝ mentioning

<sup>8</sup> مختصر مفید, ibidem, p. 180.

<sup>9</sup> میرزا رفیعا، دستور الملوك، به کوشش و تصحیح محمد اسماعیل مارچینکوفسکی، ترجمه علی کردآبادی، با مقدمه منصور صفت گل، به سفارش مرکز اسناد و تاریخ دیپلماسی، تهران، وزارت امور خارجه، مرکز چاپ و انتشارات، ۱۳۸۵، ۱۸۶.

<sup>10</sup> میرزا رفیعا، دستور الملوك، ibidem, p. 238.

<sup>11</sup> Չոքհւրսյան Պալէկ, 2006, 33.

<sup>12</sup> میرزا رفیعا، دستور الملوك، ibidem, p. 55.

<sup>13</sup> میرزا رفیعا، دستور الملوك، ibidem, pp. 75,76.

“From Chokhursaag principedom twenty-five thousand nine hundred ten tumans and six thousand three hundred and twenty-six dinars<sup>14</sup>, after which mention is made of more regions subordinated to Chokhursaad In the same second chapter after Chokhursaad it is noted: “The Karabakh land and the regions around it must pay twenty-four thousand and seven hundred twenty-six tuman and nine hundred seventy-eight dinar”, is further noted in the revenue part of the records on Karabakh and the subordinated regions.

In the part “Chokhursaad and subordinate regions” of the third chapter of the Conclusion the following units were noted: Tuman Nakhijevan, Maku, Chrugbil, Sedarak, Bayaget, Scadilu (residential territory of the Kurds, a base on the Mountain Ararat Akrade Dembeli (a Kurdish tribe, disseminated on the territories of Iran and Ottoman borderline lands)<sup>15</sup> The communications on the Tazkirat al-muluk book are important because they show a new process of forming the new names in Armenia. In the row of traditional place names, the lands temporarily occupied by the nomadic tribes receive officially recognized names. According to Tazkirat al-muluk, the geography of Karabakh and its subordinated regions included Dzakam, Barda, Ahnabad, Javanshir, Bargushat, Volkaie Arasbarr and the lands of Baiagedli tribe, Volkaye Somavi and Tarkor (Targyavas)<sup>16</sup>:

This fact of the administrative division resulted in a speculation on the part of the Azerbaijani, who wanted to create an impression that Chokhursaad was part of Azerbaijan, however, according to Tazkirat al-muluk, Chokhursaad really was an autonomous territory. In the preface to the third Chapter of Tazkirat al-Muluk<sup>17</sup> the author enumerates the thirteen municipalities of the country, noting Azerbaijan as the fourth name, while the fifth name is Chokhursaat (Yerevan), without joining it to Azerbaijan or any other name. In this connection, in the division of the book dealing with revenues, Chokhursaad and its dependent territories are presented separately, which proves that at that period of time the principedom of Chokhursaat was under independent administration.

In this connection the following remark by Hakob Papazian acquires great significance: Referring to Tazkirat al-muluk as the main source, he describes Chokhursaad: “...The North-West four vilaets are included into the tax-and-finance subdivision being autonomous politico-financial institutions.

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<sup>14</sup> میرزا رفیعا، دستورالملوک، ibidem, p. 75,76.

<sup>15</sup> میرزا سمیعا، تذکرہ الملوک، تہران، انتشارات امیرکبیر، 1368، p. 75–76.

<sup>16</sup> میرزا سمیعا تذکرہ الملوک، ibidem, p. 76–78.

<sup>17</sup> میرزا سمیعا، تذکرہ الملوک، ibidem, p. 5.

*Interestingly, because of that the country of Ararat or the province of Yerevan subordinated also by the Nakhijevan's olkan was called Chukhur-Sa'di principedom, Gandzak – by the world of Artsakh, Gandzak or Gharabag principedom, Shamakh and Aghvan world's big part – Shirvan principedom, and only Tebriz province or Atrpatakan proper – Azerbaijan principedom. However, all that from the point of taxes and finances had one common leadership*<sup>18</sup>.

While confirming Papazyan's opinion that actually several principedoms were economically subordinated to one main principedom, it is possible to affirm that at the time of creating Tazkirat al-muluk, each principedom was presented as an independent economic unit that was subordinated to the central principedom.

The abovementioned facts of administrative divisions indicated by the units Chokhursaad and Garabag, per se point out to the phenomenon that the two Armenian principedoms occupied an important place in the sefavid system of governance.

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<sup>18</sup> Պապազեան Հ. Դ., 1968, 145:

## **ԺԻԼԲԵՐԹ ՄԵՇԲԱՆԲԱՐՅԱՆՍ**

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Արեւելյան Հայաստանը սեփյանների կողմից գրավելուց հետո, ստեղծվեցին խանություններ՝ վարչական միավորներ: Պարսկական աղբյուրներում կան կարեւոր տվյալներ Երեւանի խանության եւ Ղարաբաղի վարչական եւ էթնիկ պատմության վերաբերյալ: Շնորհիվ իրենց աշխարհագրական դիրքի դրանք կարեւոր նահանգներ էին՝ սեփյան Իրանի վարչական համակարգում, եւ գտնվում էին կառավարության եւ պարսիկ պատմիչների ուշադրության կենտրոնում: Մասնավորապես, նշվում է, որ Երեւանը գտնվում էր «Փոքր Արմենիստանում» եւ բնակեցված էր առավելապես քրիստոնյաներով (հայերով):

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## **ВОСТОЧНАЯ АРМЕНИЯ В АДМИНИСТРАТИВНОЙ СИСТЕМЕ СЕФЕВИДСКОГО ИРАНА ПО ПЕРСИДСКИМ ИСТОЧНИКАМ**

После завоевания сефевидами, в Восточной Армении были организованы ханства – административные единицы. В персидских источниках, в частности, в *Tadkirat al-muluk* содержатся важные сведения по административной и этнической истории Ереванского ханства и Карабаха, которые были важными провинциями, входившими в состав административной системы сефевидского Ирана и по причине своего географического положения являлись предметом постоянного внимания со стороны правительства и персидских историков. В частности, указывается, что Ереван находится в «Малой Армении» и населён преимущественно христианами.